

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, June 19, 1895, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. 10 rue Nitot, June 19th (1895)
My dear Alec:

I am not sure if I can say anything worth the postage, but I hope you would be disappointed if you did not get a letter by this mail. I haven't heard from you yet, which I think unkind. Please do spare me half an hour in the daytime, you know you would if I were there, why not when you know I want the half hour's communion with you all the more that your bodily presence is so far away.

I went to the Salon at the Elysees yesterday afternoon, but that was doing too much in one day, I was too tired to care a snap about any of the pictures. It seemed as if none of the portraits answered my ideal. Some were lovely paintings of satins and laces, but did not seem artistic, or the flesh tints were not good. I was rather in despair, but presume it was partly because I was so tired. I am not rested even yet, and so must wait until tomorrow for another and last visit. Mademoiselle Foley and her sister took the children out for the whole afternoon yesterday. The children say the sister is remarkably pretty, Mademoiselle Foley herself is very pretty and so bright and vivacious, and the children like her much better than poor Mademoiselle Phillipi. I got a landau from the stand for them so the four went very comfortably. They visited the Pantheon, and several churches and the Invalides. The children say they took holy water and crossed themselves at five different churches, the ladies offered them the water on the tips of their fingers and they were so surprised that they took it and after once taking it they 2 had to go on. At the Pantheon they found an old friend of mine, side by side with Victor Hugo, Sadi Carnot grandfather and grandson, and other French worthies. La Tour d' Auvergne "Premier Grenadier de France." Do you remember my telling you the story? When I found neither Papa nor Miss Tarbel had heard of him I felt very shakey, and it's a personal pleasure to find him in the Pantheon, place of honor of those France delights to honor.

I wonder what you are thinking of my proposition in re Grace. I do wish you would have her for your sake and her own, her own however first, because I fancy you pretty comfortable, whereas I know she is not. I think one would go melancholy mad at Beach Bluff in a very short time.

We are going to Madame le Duchesse de Pomar's this afternoon, at least I hope so, you remember we were too late last Wednesday. I dread going immensely and would ask Mlle. Foley to go instead only my card says "not transferable." Daisy dreads it as much as I do, but Elsie is always ready for any excitement.

Both children were so nice to me the other day giving me such a pleasant surprise. Daisy had heard me say that I wanted more than anything a white ruff suit as every one is wearing now, but I couldn't afford it. So without saying anything, she and Elsie went with Mademoiselle Fillipi and had a beauty made to order. It came the other evening, and they handed me a box. Daisy looked so queer that I thought she was up to some mischief and was bound not to be humbugged, so I refused to accept it saying she couldn't cheat me. But she insisted and there lay the lovely soft white thing. Wasn't it nice of the children to give it to me. They got it with their own money of course. We have had a bath this morning, all three of us. It's rather an expensive affair, two francs each, and then the cab both ways. I have sent Charles on an exploring expedition to find another bath house, but he reports none although this is a swell neighborhood.

Lovingly yours, May.